

HILLSDALE

# DAILY NEWS

By Holly Roney May 7, 2012

## NAP TIME



The preschoolers and Kindergartner Faith LaRoe show off their blankets. Back row (left to right): Mandy LaRoe, Jill Richards and Leah Fitton (teachers), and Grandma Anne Babb. HOLLY RONEY PHOTO

## Head Start students receive pillows, blankets

CAMDEN — When the Camden Head Start began having class all day, one mother saw an opportunity to give.

Mandy LaRoe, mother of 4-year-old, Chevelle, said her daughter came home from Head Start saying she had difficulty during nap time because they didn't have pillows or blankets and just covered up with their coats. That's when LaRoe decided to quilt a pillow and blanket for each of the 16 children that attend the Head Start program.

"I've made pillows and blankets for my daughters, nieces and nephews ... the church," LaRoe said. "I figured, 'Why not them?'" Each pillow and blanket set takes LaRoe approximately 2-3 days to make. Her older daughter, Michelle, and Michelle's mother-in-law donated some of the material for the sets, but she has also bought material when possible. Instead of purchasing expensive batting for the insides, LaRoe said she purchases blankets from Goodwill or flea markets and recycles them into stuffing. "It's just incredible," said Head Start Teacher Wandalee Bailey.

"Mandy has done so much for our classroom," LaRoe said the pillow and blanket has helped her daughter adjust to having a nap time at school and the other children seem to love them, as well.

### A keepsake

When the Head Start program ends for the school year on May 17, each of the children will be able to keep their pillow and blanket. LaRoe has already begun work on new sets for next year's class, with the help of Chevelle and her 5-year-old daughter, Faith.

"I just think it's good," LaRoe said. "I make sure (they) help me and know that doing for others is a good thing."